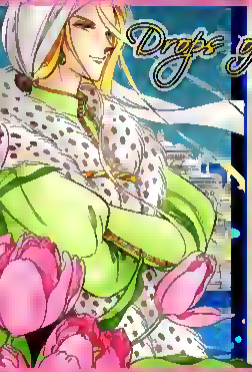
A FRIENDSHIP SCANS SCANLATION



Drops of Dreams, The Golden Birdcage

CHAPTER 26

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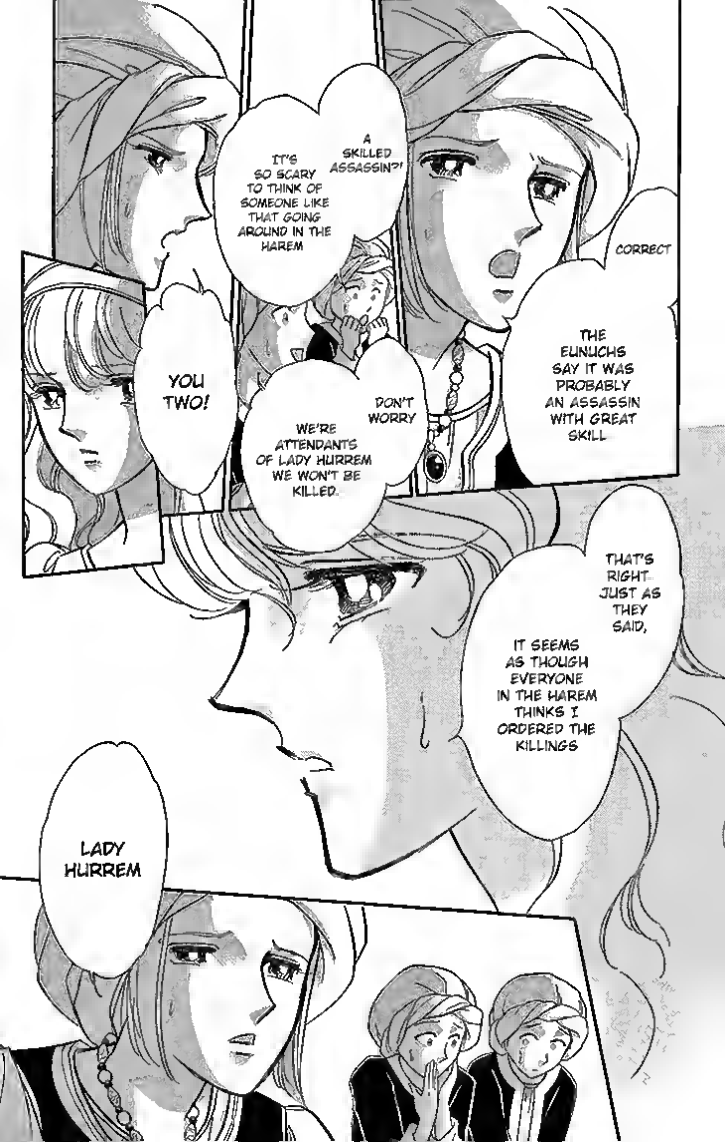
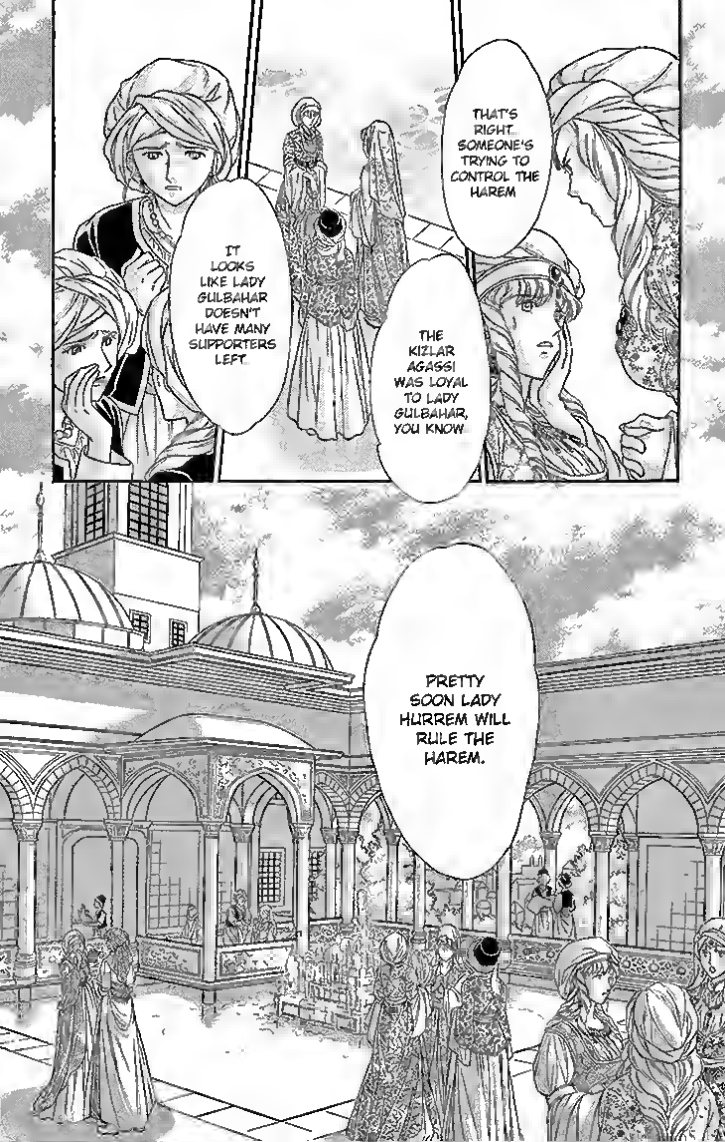
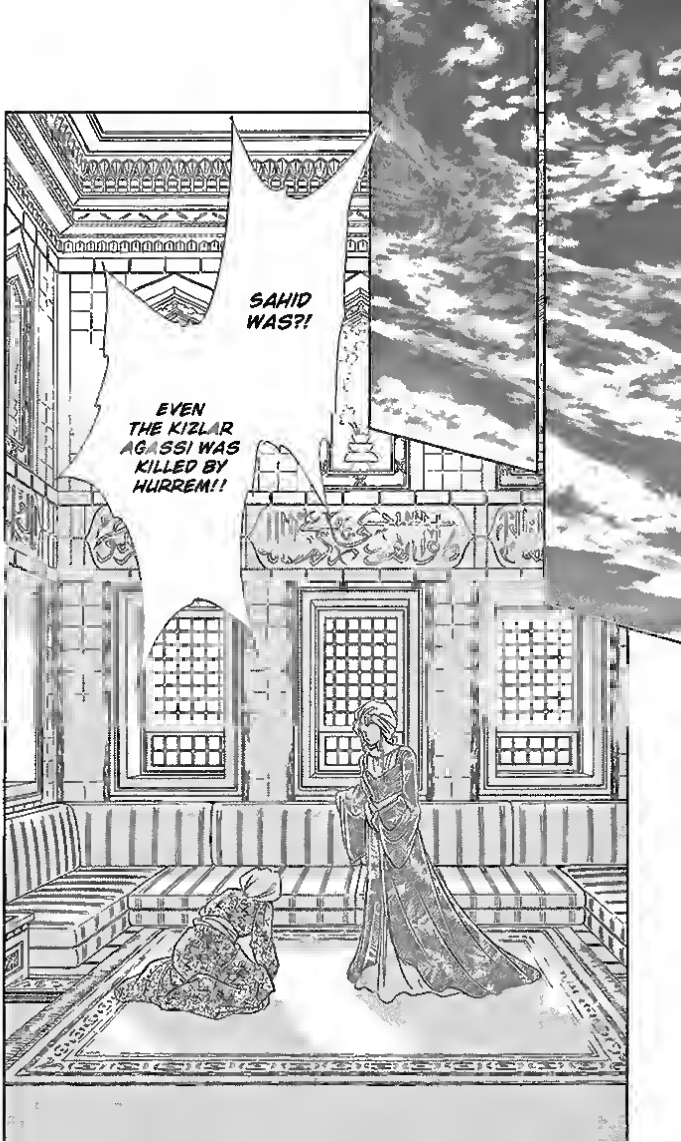
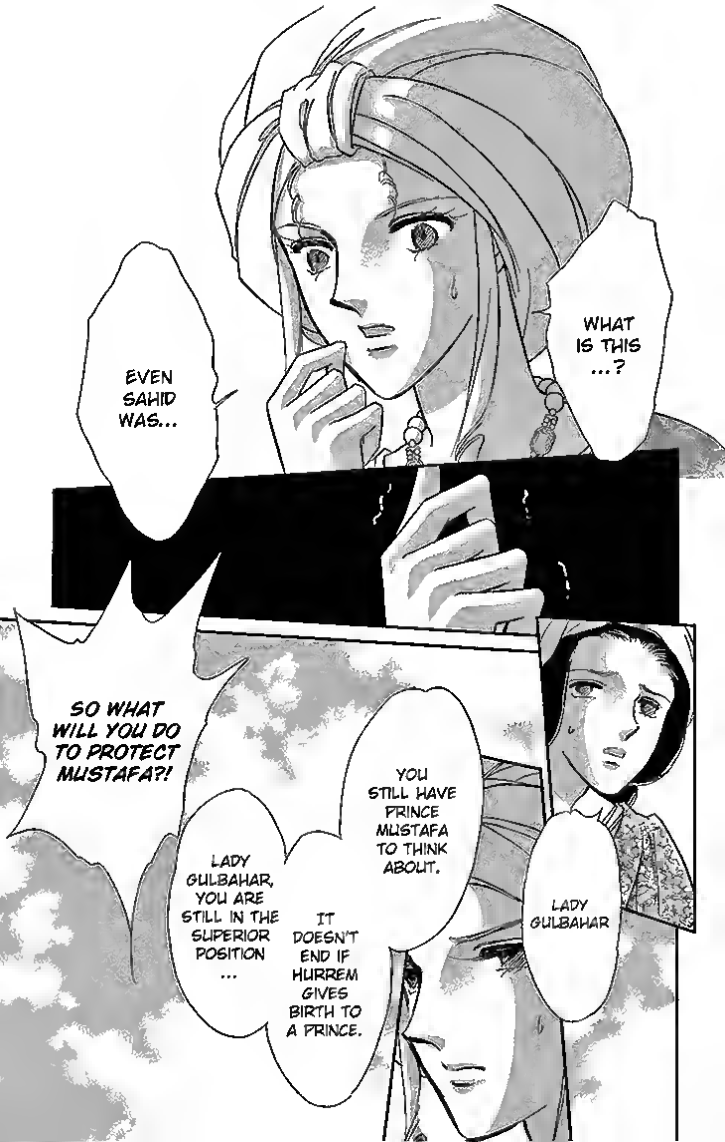
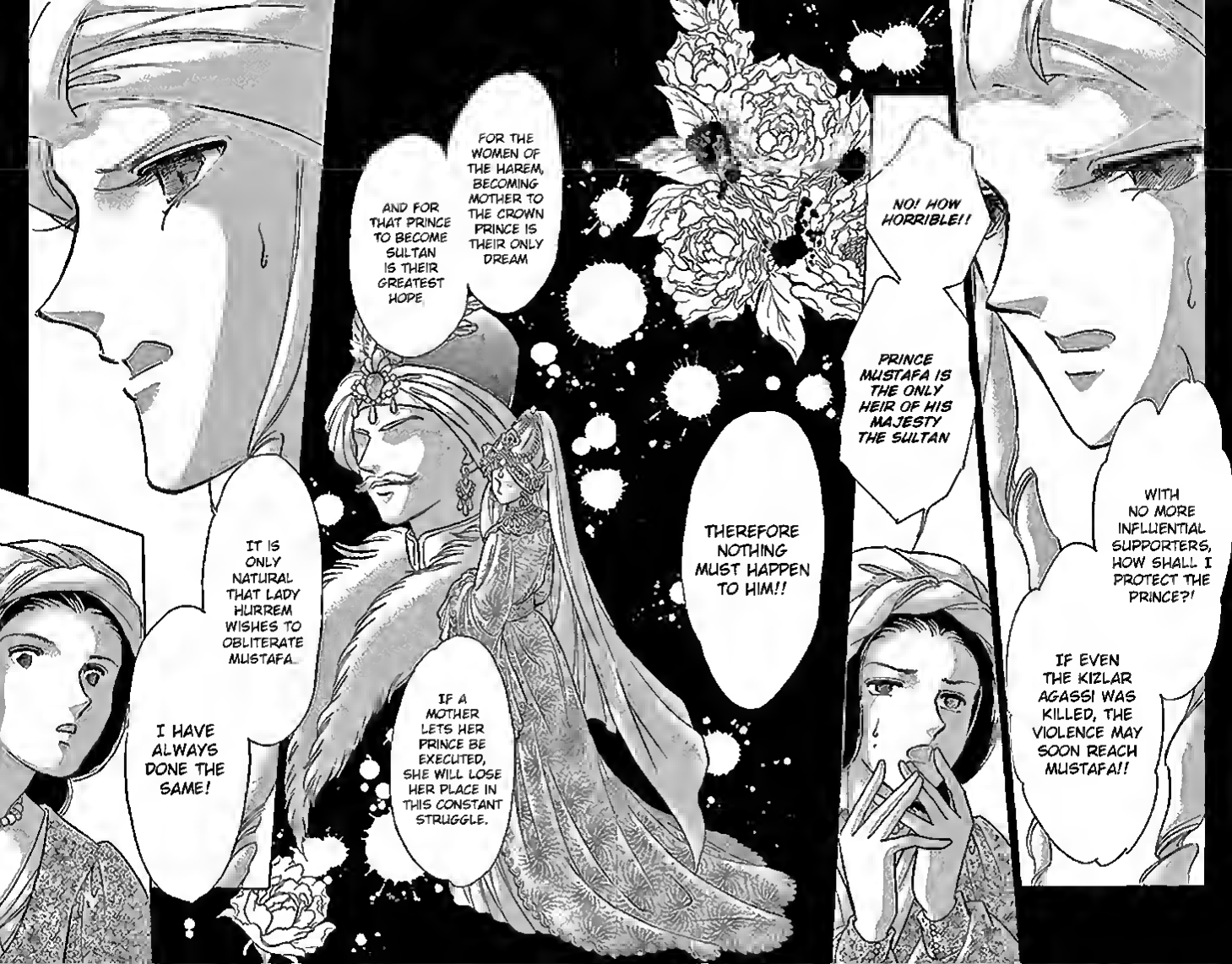

A SKILLED ASSASSIN?!
IT'S SO SCARY TO THINK OF SOMEONE LIKE THAT GOING AROUND IN THE HAREM
CORRECT
THE EUNUCHS SAY IT WAS PROBABLY AN ASSASSIN WITH GREAT SKILL
YOU TWO!
DON'T WORRY
WE'RE ATTENDANTS OF LADY HURREM WE WON'T BE KILLED.
THAT'S RIGHT. JUST AS THEY SAID,
IT SEEMS AS THOUGH EVERYONE IN THE HAREM THINKS I ORDERED THE KILLINGS
LADY HURREM

SO EVEN THE KIZLAR AGASSI WAS KILLED. THIS IS A FIRST FOR THE HAREM.
Who...?
Someone is killing people for my sake
Who could it possibly be?!

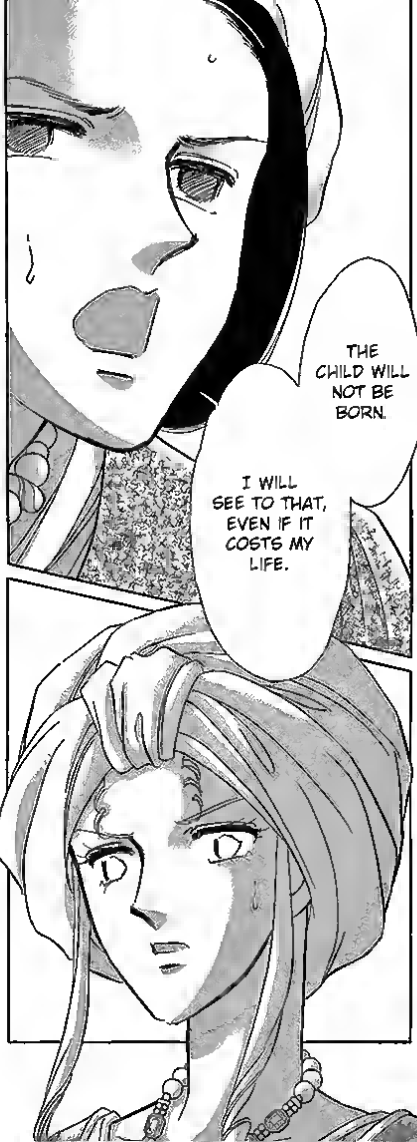

IT LOOKS LIKE LADY GULBAHAR DOESN'T HAVE MANY SUPPORTERS LEFT.
THE KIZLAR AGASSI WAS LOYAL TO LADY GULBAHAR, YOU KNOW.
THAT'S RIGHT. SOMEONE'S TRYING TO CONTROL THE HAREM
PRETTY SOON LADY HURREM WILL RULE THE HAREM.


SAHID WAS?!
EVEN THE KIZLAR AGASSI WAS KILLED BY HURREM!!

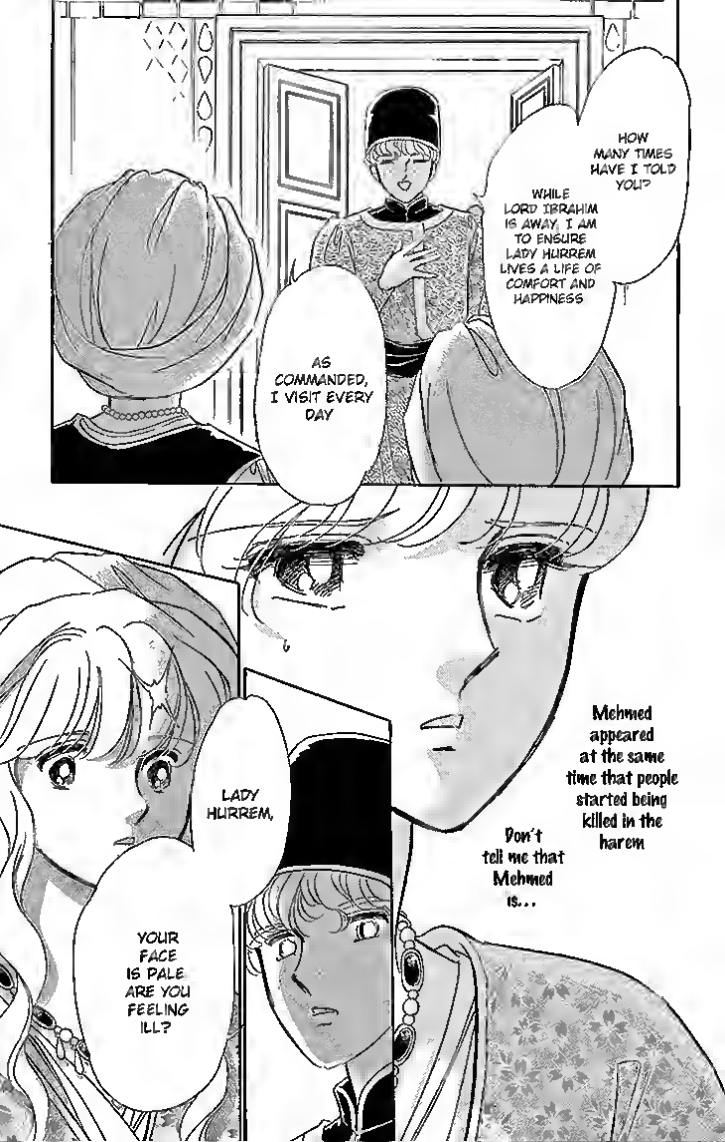

WHAT IS THIS ...?
EVEN SAHID WAS...
SO WHAT WILL YOU DO TO PROTECT MUSTAFA?!
LADY GULBAHAR, YOU ARE STILL IN THE SUPERIOR POSITION ...
IT DOESN'T END IF HURREM GIVES BIRTH TO A PRINCE.
YOU STILL HAVE PRINCE MUSTAFA TO THINK ABOUT.
LADY GULBAHAR

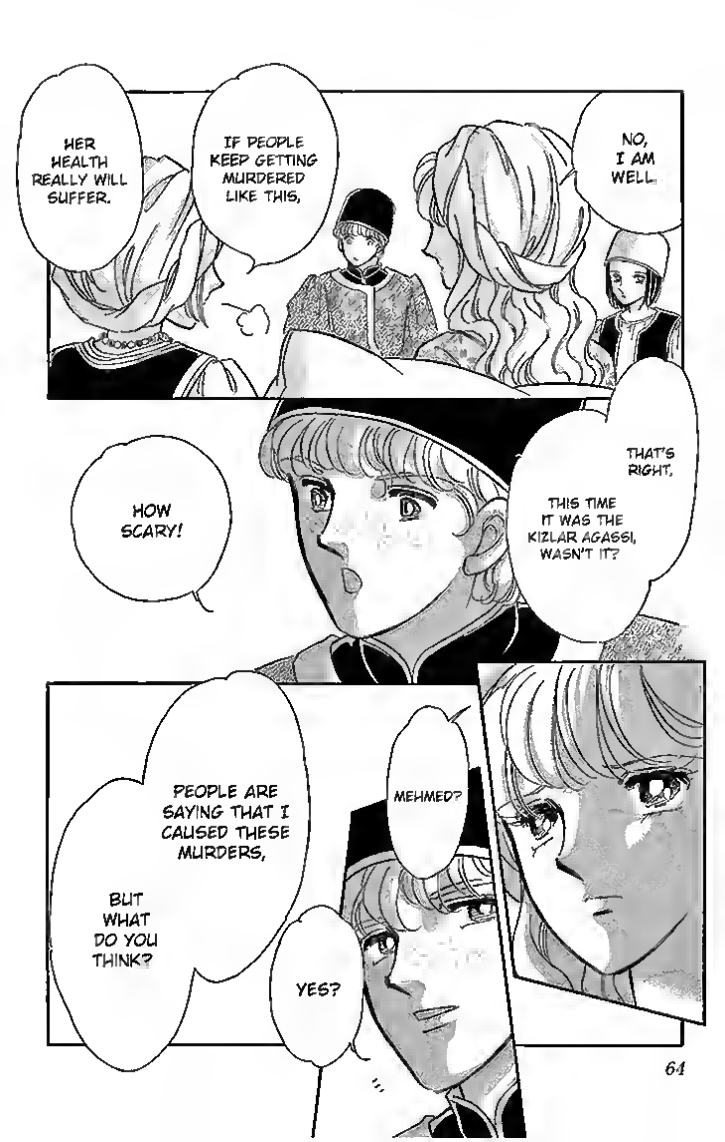

I HAVE ALWAYS DONE THE SAME!
IT IS ONLY NATURAL THAT LADY HURREM WISHES TO OBLITERATE MUSTAFA.
IF A MOTHER LETS HER PRINCE BE EXECUTED, SHE WILL LOSE HER PLACE IN THIS CONSTANT STRUGGLE.
AND FOR THAT PRINCE TO BECOME SULTAN IS THEIR GREATEST HOPE
FOR THE WOMEN OF THE HAREM, BECOMING MOTHER TO THE CROWN PRINCE IS THEIR ONLY DREAM
THEREFORE NOTHING MUST HAPPEN TO HIM!!
NO! HOW HORRIBLE!!
PRINCE MUSTAFA IS THE ONLY HEIR OF HIS MAJESTY THE SULTAN
WITH NO MORE INFLUENTIAL SUPPORTERS, HOW SHALL I PROTECT THE PRINCE?!
IF EVEN THE KIZLAR AGASSI WAS KILLED, THE VIOLENCE MAY SOON REACH MUSTAFA!!

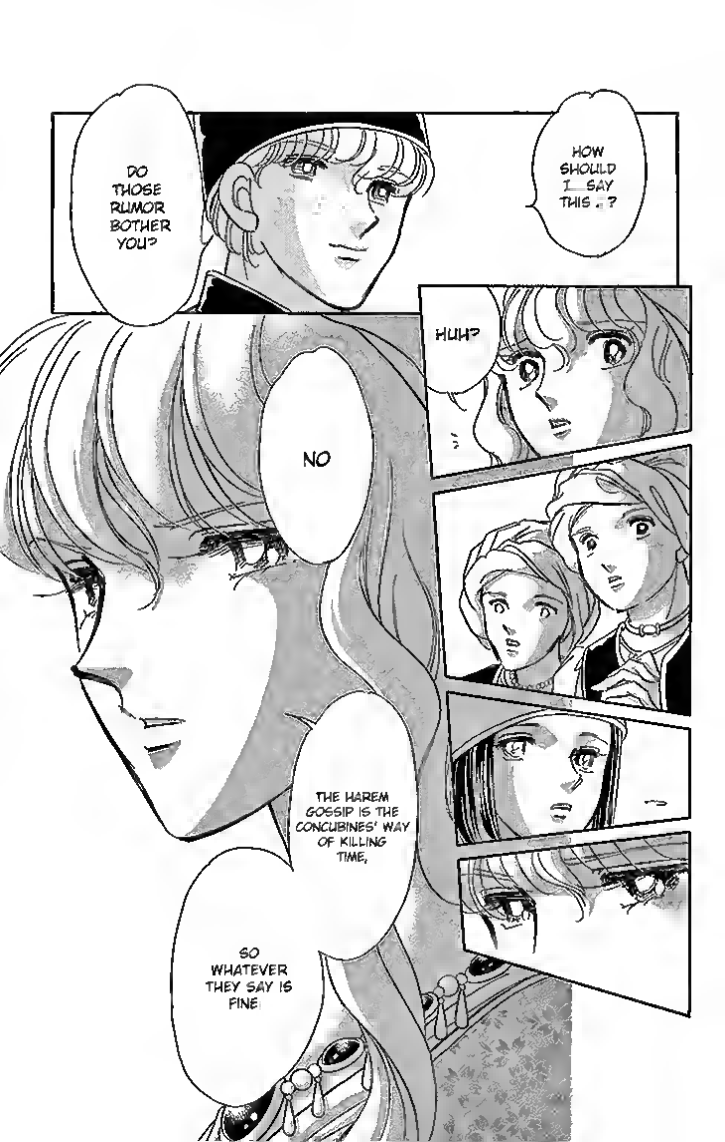
LADY GULBAHAR
LADY HURREM'S CHILD IS NOT YET BORN
WE STILL HAVE TIME PLEASE LEAVE IT TO ME
FUFUL, WHAT ARE YOU PROPOSING?


THE CHILD WILL NOT BE BORN.
I WILL SEE TO THAT, EVEN IF IT COSTS MY LIFE.

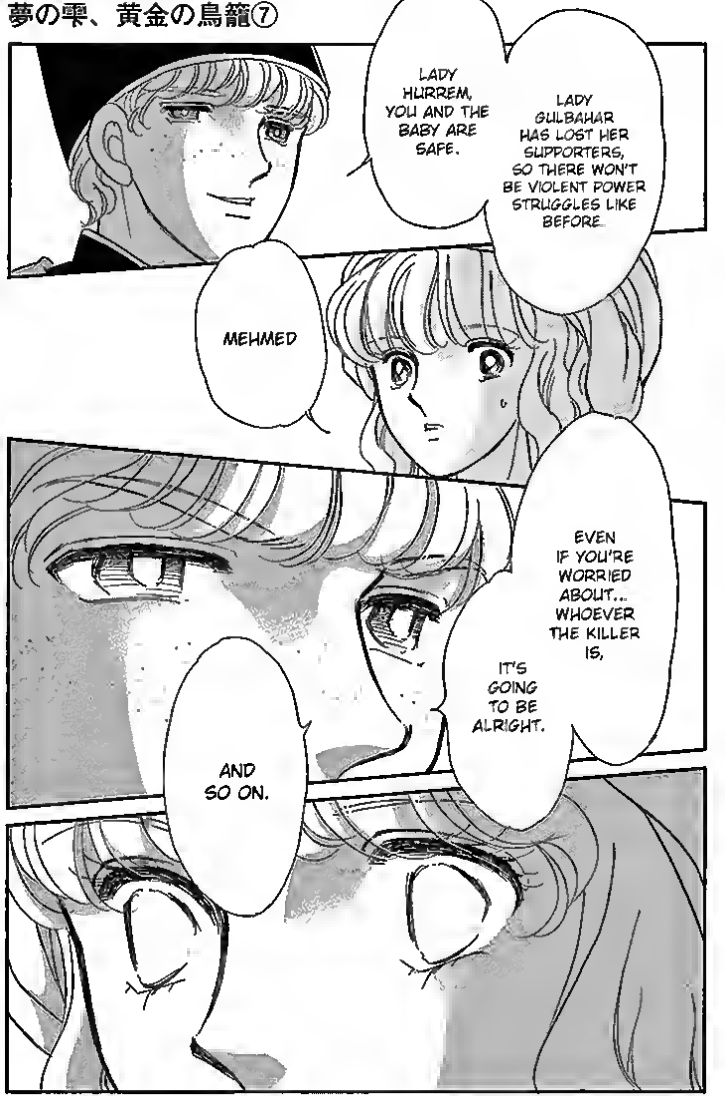
GOOD MORNING!
DO YOU HAVE ANY PLANS TODAY, LADY HURREM?
MEHMED
YOU'RE HERE AGAIN!
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE WORKING IN THE BILLIND?

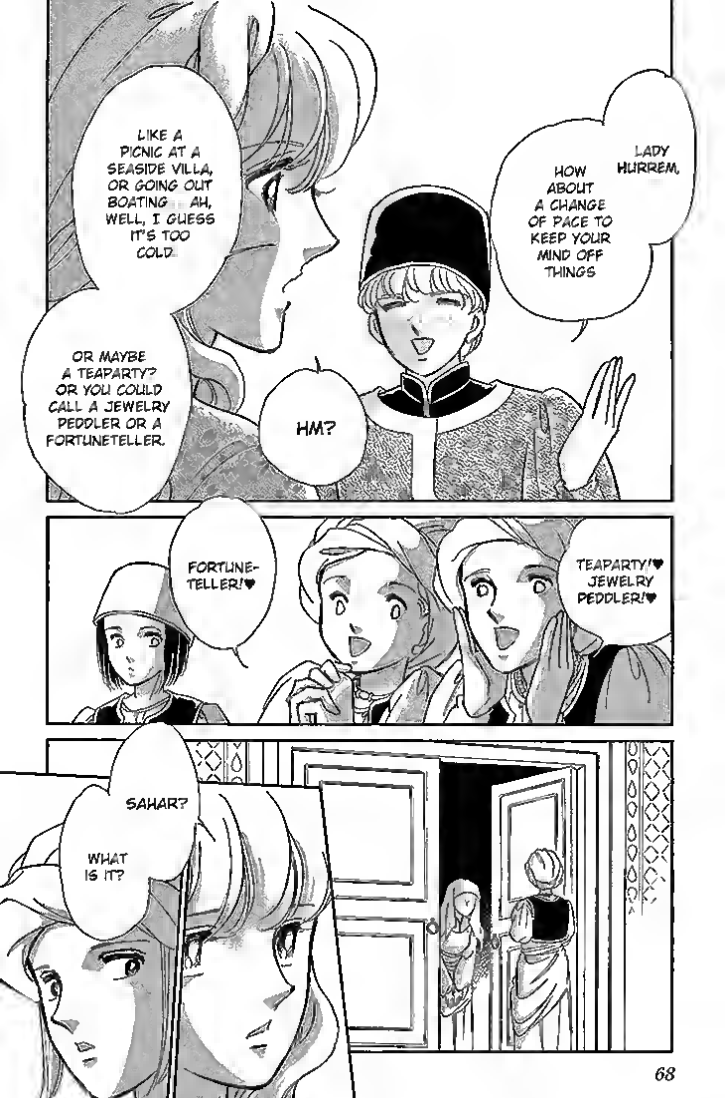

HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU?
WHILE LORD IBRAHIM IS AWAY, I AM TO ENSURE LADY HURREM LIVES A LIFE OF COMFORT AND HAPPINESS
AS COMMANDED, I VISIT EVERY DAY
Mehmed appeared at the same time that people started being killed in the harem
Don't tell me that Mehmed is...
LADY HURREM,
YOUR FACE IS PALE ARE YOU FEELING ILL?

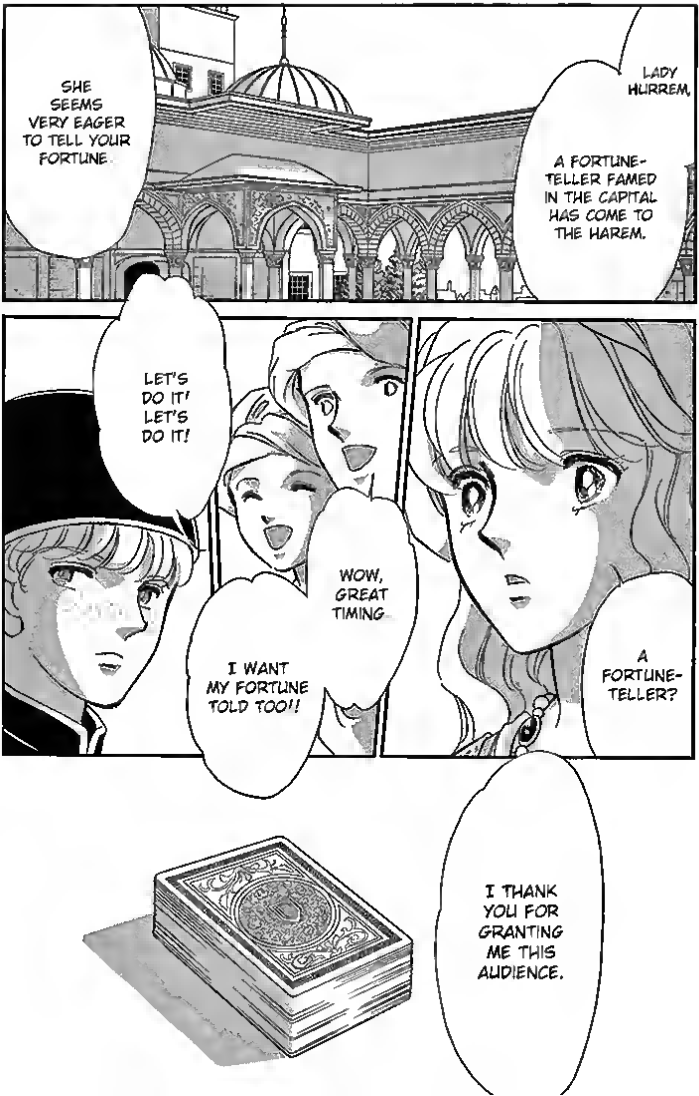

NO, I AM WELL.
IF PEOPLE KEEP GETTING MURDERED LIKE THIS,
HER HEALTH REALLY WILL SUFFER.
THAT'S RIGHT, THIS TIME IT WAS THE KIZLAR AGASSI, WASN'T IT?
HOW SCARY!
MEHMED?
PEOPLE ARE SAYING THAT I CAUSED THESE MURDERS,
BUT WHAT DO YOU THINK?
YES?

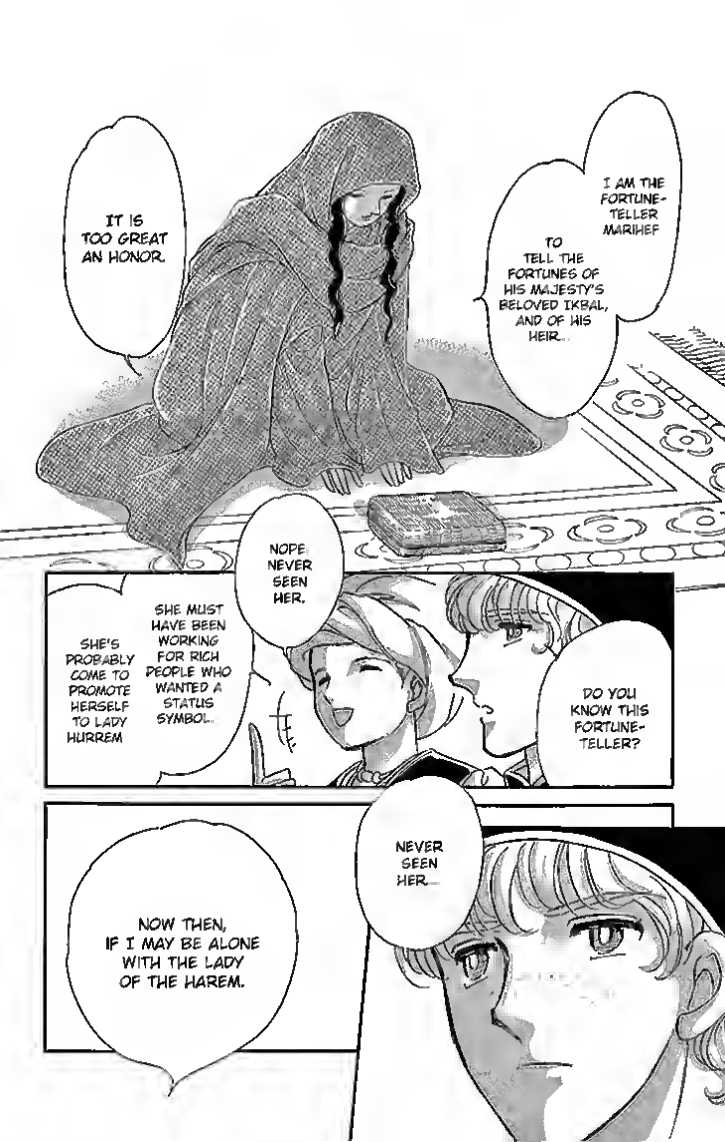

HOW SHOULD I SAY THIS..?
DO THOSE RUMOR BOTHER YOU?
HUH?
NO
THE HAREM GOSSIP IS THE CONCUBINES' WAY OF KILLING TIME,
SO WHATEVER THEY SAY IS FINE.

I SIMPLY WISH TO DELIVER THIS CHILD WITHOUT INCIDENT.
GRIN
IN THAT CASE,
ISN'T IT ALRIGHT TO BE "LUCKY"?


LADY HURREM, YOU AND THE BABY ARE SAFE.
LADY GULBAHAR HAS LOST HER SUPPORTERS, SO THERE WON'T BE VIOLENT POWER STRUGGLES LIKE BEFORE.
MEHMED
EVEN IF YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT... WHOEVER THE KILLER IS,
IT'S GOING TO BE ALRIGHT.
AND SO ON.


LADY HURREM, HOW ABOUT A CHANGE OF PACE TO KEEP YOUR MIND OFF THINGS
HM?
LIKE A PICNIC AT A SEASIDE VILLA, OR GOING OUT BOATING AH, WELL, I GUESS IT'S TOO COLD.
OR MAYBE A TEAPARTY? OR YOU COULD CALL A JEWELRY PEDDLER OR A FORTUNETELLER.
TEAPARTY!♥ JEWELRY PEDDLER!♥
FORTUNE-TELLER!♥
SAHAR?
WHAT IS IT?


LADY HURREM,
A FORTUNE-TELLER FAMED IN THE CAPITAL HAS COME TO THE HAREM.
SHE SEEMS VERY EAGER TO TELL YOUR FORTUNE.
A FORTUNE-TELLER?
WOW, GREAT TIMING.
I WANT MY FORTUNE TOLD TOO!!
LET'S DO IT! LET'S DO IT!
I THANK YOU FOR GRANTING ME THIS AUDIENCE.

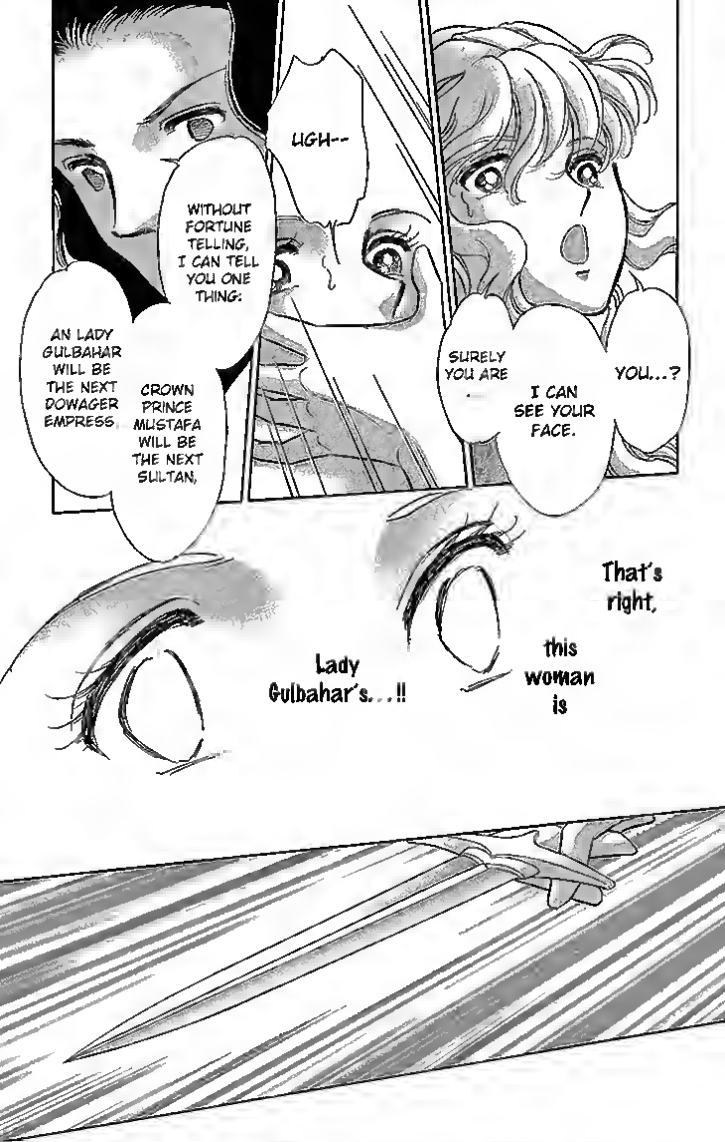

I AM THE FORTUNE-TELLER MARIHEF
TO TELL THE FORTUNES OF HIS MAJESTY'S BELOVED IKBAL, AND OF HIS HEIR...
IT IS TOO GREAT AN HONOR.
DO YOU KNOW THIS FORTUNE-TELLER?
NOPE. NEVER SEEN HER.
SHE MUST HAVE BEEN WORKING FOR RICH PEOPLE WHO WANTED A STATUS SYMBOL...
SHE'S PROBABLY COME TO PROMOTE HERSELF TO LADY HURREM
NEVER SEEN HER...
NOW THEN, IF I MAY BE ALONE WITH THE LADY OF THE HAREM.

JUST THE TWO OF YOU? I CAN'T ALLOW THAT.
IT IS RUDE TO REQUEST A PRIVATE AUDIENCE WITH A LADY OF THE HAREM...
WHATEVER I MAY FORETELL, IF THERE ARE MORE PEOPLE IN THE ROOM, THE INFORMATION MAY BECOME MIXED UP.
IT SHOULD BE FINE, RIGHT?
THIS IS IMPORTANT, SO WE CAN HELP LADY HURREM
CLEAR AWAY HER MELANCHOLY THOUGHTS
OKAY, EVERYONE OUT!
MEHMED

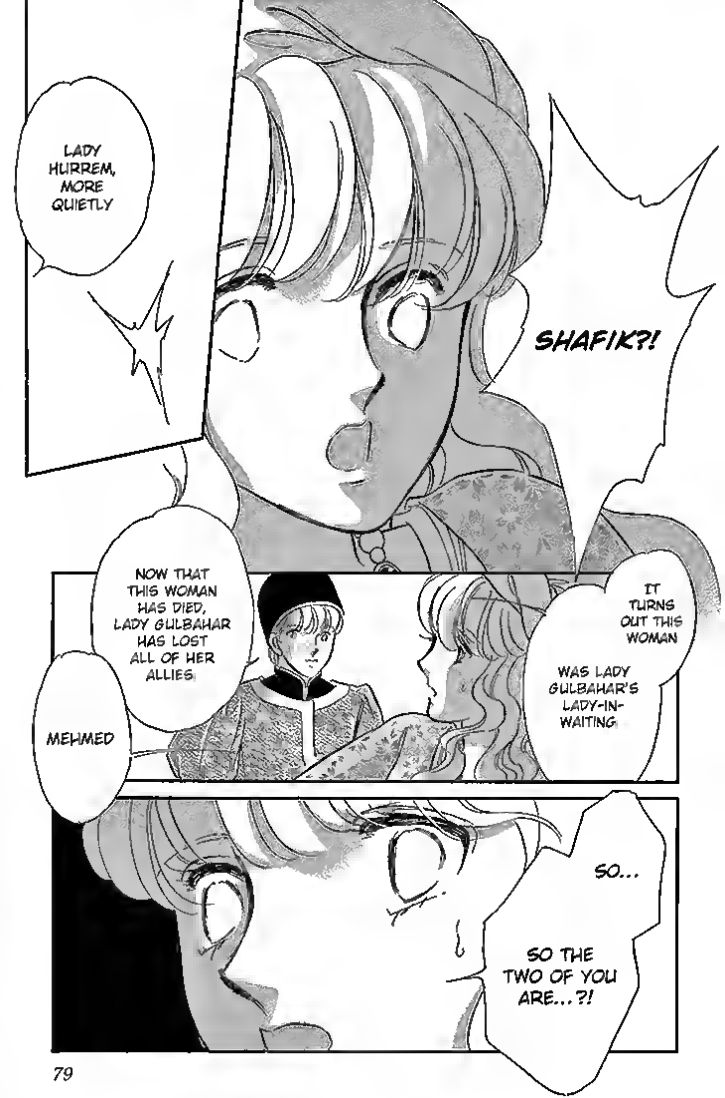
I WONDER IF SHE'S ACTUALLY TELLING THE CHILD'S FUTURE
WITH THE CARDS LAID OUT LIKE SO, I CAN SEE YOUR GOOD FORTUNE

WILL MY UNBORN CHILD HAVE A JOYOUS LIFE?
NOW THEN, LET US SEE.
OH, A WONDERFUL QUESTION.
AND WHAT AN INTELLIGENT CHILD YOU'LL HAVE!
YOUR CHILD WILL BE EXTREMELY BEAUTIFUL.
AND THE BABE WILL BE LOVED BY MANY.
HOWEVER...

HOWEVER?
HOW-
EVER,
I DOUBT YOUR CHILD WILL EVER SEE THE LIGHT OF THE SUN.
!!

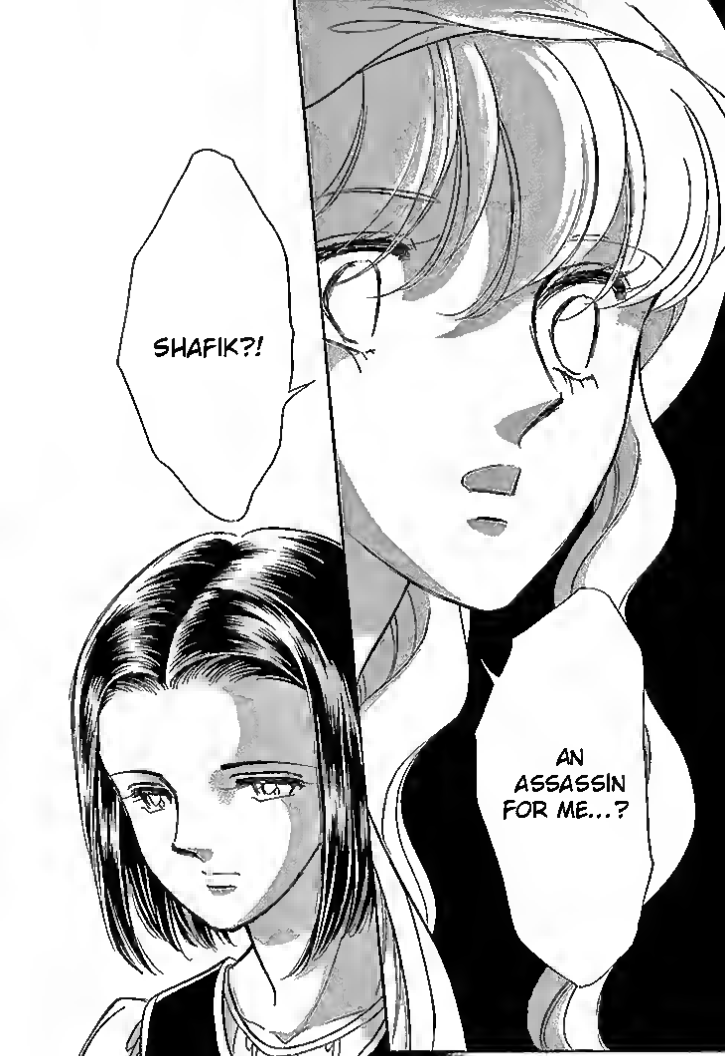

UGH--
WITHOUT FORTUNE TELLING, I CAN TELL YOU ONE THING:
AN LADY GULBAHAR WILL BE THE NEXT DOWAGER EMPRESS
CROWN PRINCE MUSTAFA WILL BE THE NEXT SULTAN,
SURELY YOU ARE
I CAN SEE YOUR FACE.
YOU...?
That's right,
this woman is
Lady Gulbahar's...!!

STAB
!!

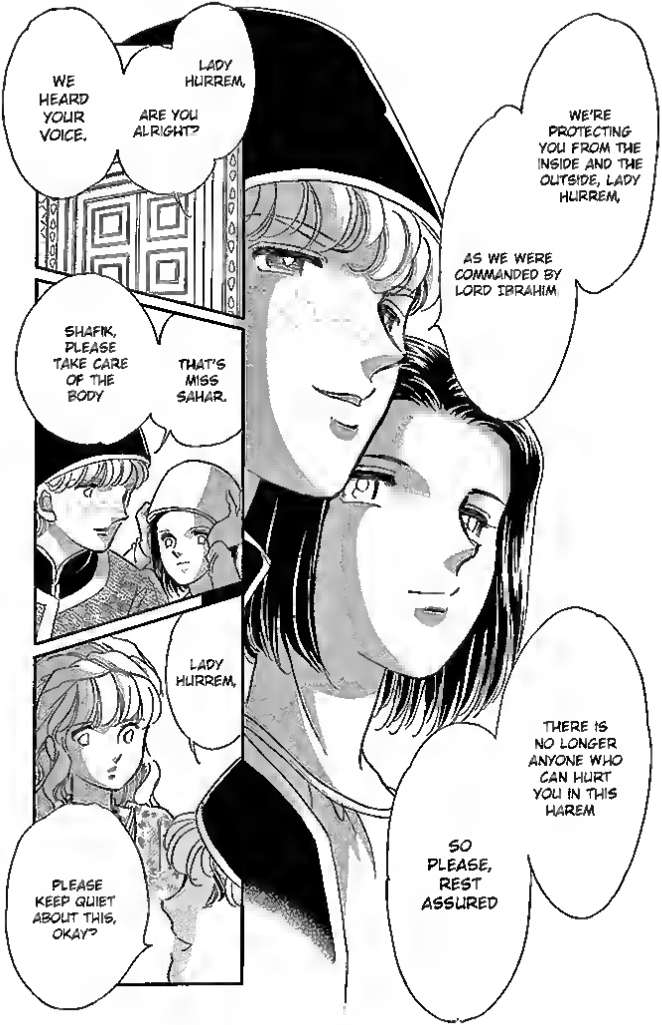

LADY HURREM, MORE QUIETLY
SHAFIK?!
NOW THAT THIS WOMAN HAS DIED, LADY GULBAHAR HAS LOST ALL OF HER ALLIES.
IT TURNS OUT THIS WOMAN WAS LADY GULBAHAR'S LADY-IN-WAITING.
MEHMED
SO...
SO THE TWO OF YOU ARE...?!

SO THAT WE COULD BE USEFUL TO LORD IBRAHIM
AS I SAID PREVIOUSLY, TH TWO OF US WERE EDUCATED
AND SHAFIK CAN SERVE ON THE INSIDE .. OR SOMETHING
SO THAT I CAN SERVE ON THE OUTSIDE
!?
THE KILLER UP TILL NOW HAS BEEN SHAFIK?!
FOR MY SAKE?!
OUTSIDE AND INSIDE ...?
... AND ON THE INSIDE IS ASSASSI-NATION?

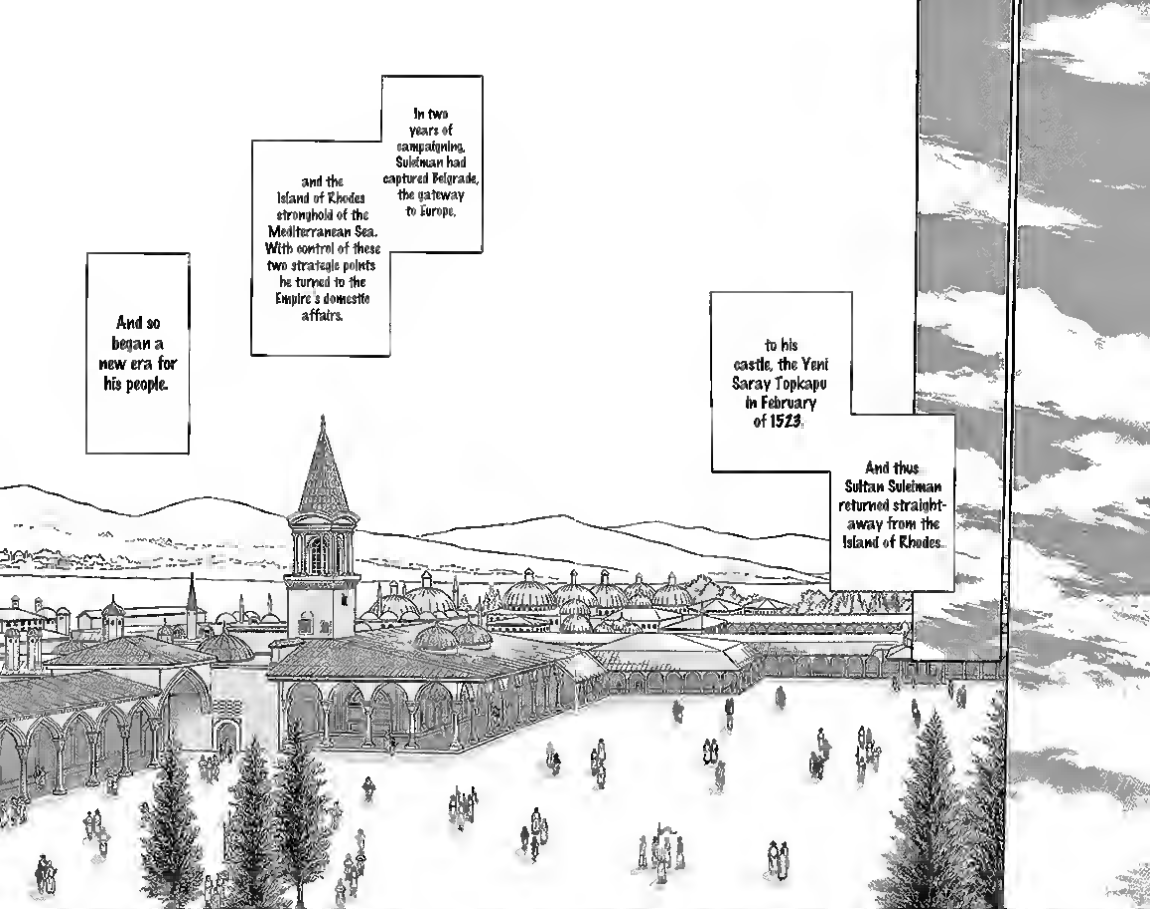
SHAFIK?
IF THE CAUSE OF YOUR WORRY WAS THE ASSASSIN, PLEASE BE AT EASE
THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO DANGER TO YOU, LADY HURREM
BECAUSE SHAFIK IS AN ASSASSIN FOR YOU.

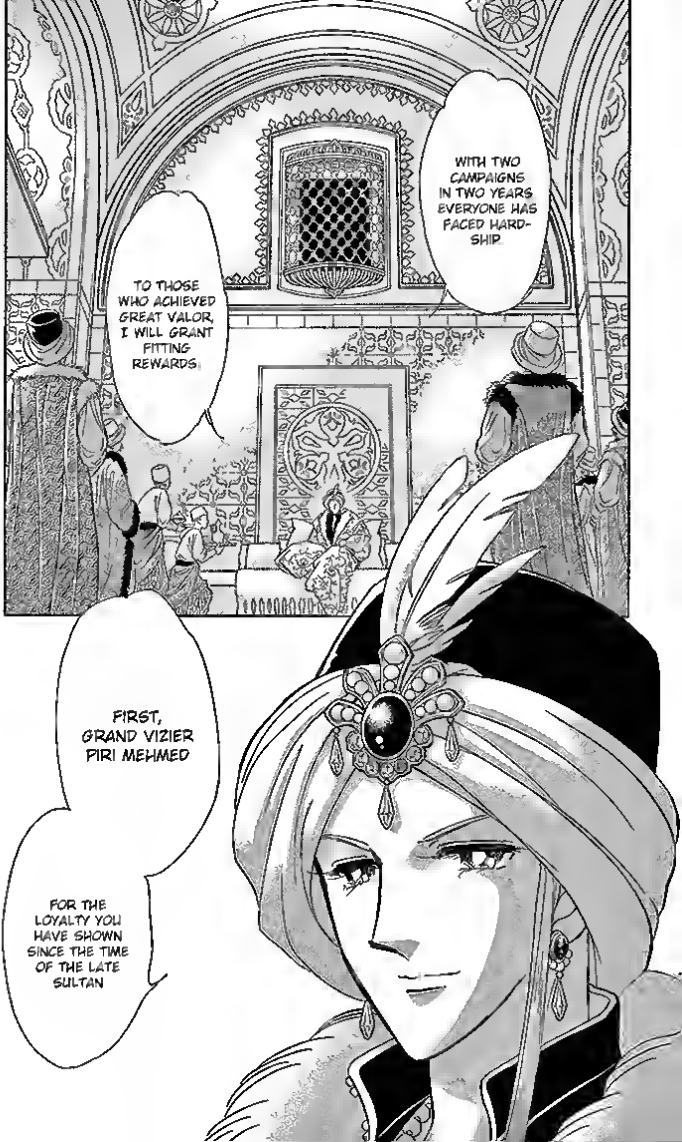

SHAFIK?!
AN ASSASSIN FOR ME...?

THEN
THAT TIME...
THAT TIME TOO...?!


WE HEARD YOUR VOICE.
LADY HURREM, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
WE'RE PROTECTING YOU FROM THE INSIDE AND THE OUTSIDE, LADY HURREM,
AS WE WERE COMMANDED BY LORD IBRAHIM
SHAFIK, PLEASE TAKE CARE OF THE BODY
THAT'S MISS SAHAR.
LADY HURREM,
THERE IS NO LONGER ANYONE WHO CAN HURT YOU IN THIS HAREM
SO PLEASE, REST ASSURED
PLEASE KEEP QUIET ABOUT THIS, OKAY?

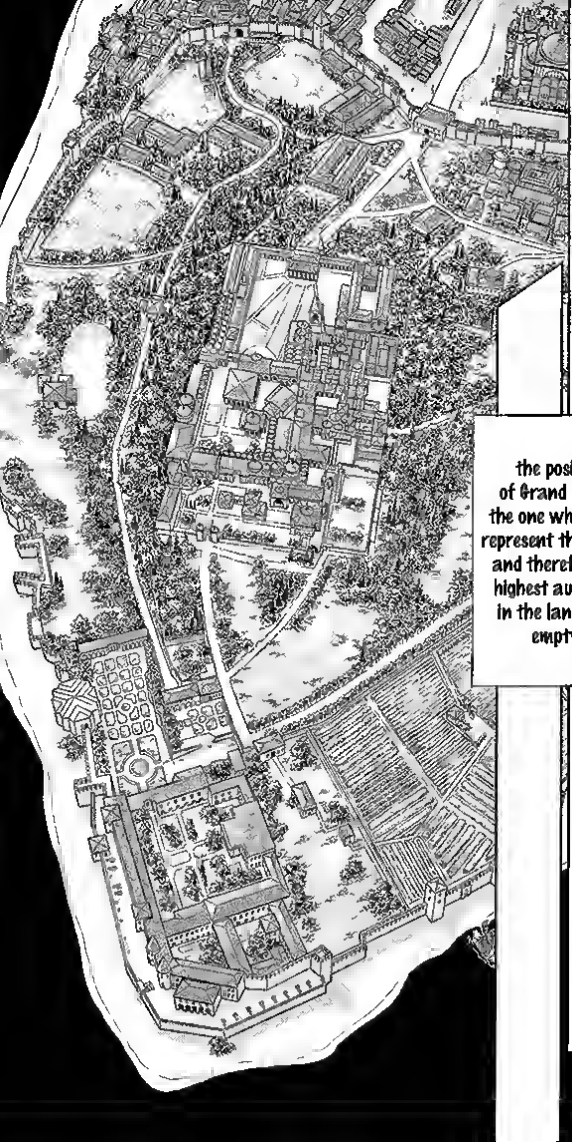
The inside and the outside ...
Shafik is my assassin ...!


And so began a new era for his people.
In two years of campaigning, Suleiman had captured Belgrade, the gateway to Europe,
and the island of Rhodes stronghold of the Mediterranean Sea. With control of these two strategic points he turned to the Empire's domestic affairs.
And thus Sultan Suleiman returned straight-away from the Island of Rhodes
to his castle, the Yeni Saray Topkapu in February of 1523.


WITH TWO CAMPAIGNS IN TWO YEARS EVERYONE HAS FACED HARDSHIP.
TO THOSE WHO ACHIEVED GREAT VALOR, I WILL GRANT FITTING REWARDS.
FIRST, GRAND VIZIER PIRI MEHMED
FOR THE LOYALTY YOU HAVE SHOWN SINCE THE TIME OF THE LATE SULTAN

AS OF TODAY, YOU ARE NO LONGER GRAND VIZIER.
I APPOINT YOU LORD OF SILIVRI, TO THE WEST OF THE IMPERIAL CAPITAL.
FROM NOW ON, YOUR DOMAIN STRETCHES AS FAR AS THE OCEAN.
I ACCEPT WITH DEEPEST GRATITUDE.

During his reign Suleiman had nine Grand Viziers
the first being Pirî Mehmed
After serving the previous Sultan Selim I as Vizier for ten years
he spent ten more years as Lord of Silivri.


And thus,
the position of Grand Vizier, the one who would represent the Sultan and therefore the highest authority in the land, was empty.

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